

FESTIVAL ROUNDUP (FROM PAGE 1)

Bozeman, Livingston & Big Sky (cont)

Moods of the Madison: July 18-19 in Ennis. Five-time Grammy-award winner Buddy Guy and rock and blues legends Grand Funk Rail Road are among the headliners at this year's festival. Other artists include Toubab Krewe, Roadkill Ghost Choir, Golden Grenade, Hollow Wood, Screen Door Porch, Boozehounds, the Molotov Quintet, and more. Regional food and craft vendors, and family activities are also on tap. Call 406-580-8944 or visit moodsofthemadison.com.

Summerfest Along the Yellowstone: July 18-20 at Sacajawea Park in Livingston. This 15th annual outdoor festival kicks off Friday with the Cold Hard Cash Show followed by The Max. Saturday's line-up includes the Mike Bader Band, Marshall Catch, The Bus Driver Tour, Western Skies, the Stephanie Quayle Band, and Aces Up with Jason Adams. Someday Miss Pray, the Sean Hayes Band and Little Jane and The Pistol Whips take the stage on Sunday. Art and craft booths, and kids' activities are also on tap. Call 406-222-8155 or visit www.livingstonmusicfestival.com.

Sweet Pea Festival: Aug. 1-3 at Lindley Park in Bozeman. Musical headliners at the 37th annual event include Reckless Kelly, The White Buffalo and Hayes Caril; Ari Hest, The Pines, Worth, The Brothers Comatose, Chicago Afrobeat Projects and LoCura also take turns on stage. The festival brims with dance, including BodyTraffic and Montana Ballet Company, theatre troupes, kids' activities, a flower show and over 100 arts and crafts vendors. Call 406-586-4003 or visit sweetpeafestival.org.

Rockin' the Rivers: Aug. 7-10 at The Bridge in the Jefferson River Canyon near Three Forks. The 16th annual rock fest celebrates standout millennial bands, including Hinder, Pop Evil and Black Stone Cherry, newcomers such as Aranda and Bobaflex, and such classic rockers as Queensryche and Jefferson Starship. Call 800-555-8989 or visit www.rockintherivers.com.

Big Sky Classical Music Festival: Aug. 8 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center and Aug. 9-10 at the Town Center Park in Big Sky. Composer and educator Eric Funk is music/artistic director for the festival, which opens Friday with acclaimed violinists Angella Ahn and David Wallace performing solo compositions at the performing arts center accompanied by pianist Julie Grossmiller. The festival moves to Town Center Park for two free concerts: Spectrum Brass, known for its focus on musical artistry and energy, on Saturday (the MSU String Camp Orchestra opens); and the Big Sky Festival Orchestra, under the baton of Peter Bay, on Sunday, with soloists Ahn and Wallace. Other festival offerings include a masters class with Ahn and Wallace, an open rehearsal with Spectrum Brass, a lecture by Funk, and a matinee concert by the MSU String Camp Orchestra. Call 406-995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org for details.

Butte & Southwest Montana

St. Timothy's Summer Music Festival: 4 p.m. Sundays, June 29, July 13 and 27, and Aug. 10 and 24 at St. Timothy's Chapel, perched high above Georgetown Lake. Harpists Joy and Karin Gunderson launch the annual festival June 29 with a free concert, "Heavenly Harps." The series continues with the Montana Chamber Music Society, featuring members of the Muir String Quartet and a roster of stellar guest artists, including multi-instrumentalist Chris Brubeck, July 13; violinist James Schlender, two-time winner of the National Fiddle Championships, with Bozeman guitarist and bassist Craig Hall on July 27; Missoula jazz vocalist Eden Atwood and friends Aug. 10; and the acclaimed Werner Cello Ensemble, featuring Montana-born siblings Helene, Lucien, Mariel, and Andree, Aug. 24. Call 888-407-4071 ext. 1 or visit www.sttimothysmusic.org for details.

Montana Folk Festival: July 11-13 in Uptown Butte. More than 20 bands perform on six stages, including a 10,000-seat open-air amphitheatre

located at the Original Mineyard. Artists offer an array of music, from jazz to Cajun, old-time string music to gospel, and mariachi to western swing and bluegrass. This year's roster includes the Harris Brothers, Piedmont flatpickers; the Lucky Stars, rock-a-billy; Don Carlos, reggae; Jeffrey Broussard and the Creole Cowboys, Cajun; Lurrie Bell, blues; Maggie Ingram and the Ingramettes, gospel; Swamp Dogg, soul;

the Stooges Brass Band, New Orleans jazz; and the Travelin' McCourys, bluegrass. The festival also offers two marketplaces, a lively family area,

folklife demonstrations and workshops, and ethnic and regional foods. New this year is a car show, in keeping with the theme, "The Culture of the Car: The Influence of Automobiles and Their Roadways on Heritage and Culture in Montana and the Mountain West." Call 406-497-6464 or visit montanafolkfestival.com.

Art in Washoe Park: July 18-20 at Washoe Park in Anaconda. The Copper Village Museum and Art Center's event features 80 juried art and craft booths, 20 food vendors and a lively menu of music, including Emily Cantrell and the John Andrews Band on Friday, Ken Rich, Andy Larson and the Bop-a-Dips on Saturday, and Dan Battleson and Kelly Hughes on Sunday. Call 406-563-2422 or visit www.coppervillageartcenter.com.

An Rí Rá Montana Irish Festival: Aug. 8-10 at the Original Mine Yard and in Uptown Butte. A vast array of Irish music, dance, history, language, genealogy, and culture fills the historic city. Some of the top names in Irish music will perform, including Evans and Doherty, Rory Makem, Whiskey Asylum, The Elders and Solas. The Trinity Irish Dancers, Tiernan Irish Dancers and Dublin Gulch also take turns on stage. Call 406-221-6198 or visit www.mtgaelic.org for details.

Vigilante Music Festival: Aug. 2 at the City Park in Virginia City. Free festival boasts a dozen hours of music by Wade Montgomery, Big Ol', The Kitchen Dwellers, The Bus Driver Tour, Montana Rose and the Dave Walker Band. Call 800-829-2969 or visit www.virginiacity.com.

Flathead and Mission Valleys

Hot Springs Blues Festival: July 25-26 at the Symes Hotel in Hot Springs. Soak up some blues, courtesy of Black Mountain Moan Big Daddy and the Blue Notes, Mudslide Charley, Mike Bader, and John Kelley. Call 406-741-2361 for details.

Festival Amadeus: Aug. 3 at Depot Park, Aug. 4-10 at the Whitefish Performing Arts Center, and Aug. 5-7 at Blessed Pope Paul II Catholic Church in Bigfork. The Festival Amadeus Orchestra launches the seventh annual classical music series at 7 p.m. Aug. 3 with a free open-air concert at Depot Park. The remaining seven concerts, 7:30 p.m. at the Whitefish Performing Arts Center, begin with a chamber series: the Fry Street Quartet, Aug. 4 (also in Bigfork Aug. 6); the Mozart Piano Wind Quintet, featuring pianist Tanya Gabrielian, Aug. 5 (in Bigfork Aug. 7); and "Violin Piano Synergy," with violinist Kinga Augustyn and pianist Spencer Meyer, Aug. 7 (in Bigfork Aug. 5). The orchestral series begins Wednesday, Aug. 6, with Mozart's Elvira Madigan and the Oxford Symphony by Haydn; and continues with "A Little Night Music," featuring the orchestra and the Fry Street Quartet, Aug. 8; "Turkish Polonaise," with guest artist Augustyn, Aug. 9; and the Festival Grand Finale, featuring pianist Meyer, Aug. 10. Call 406-407-7000 or visit www.gscmusic.org.

Riverfront Blues Festival: Aug. 8-9 at Riverfront Park in Libby. The blues bash kicks off Friday with Bryan Warhall and Triple Trouble, Claudette King, and the Robbie Laws Band. Local faves Alan Lane and Frank Chiaverini launch Saturday's sessions, which continue with the Mason Stone Band, Kevin Van Dort, Patrick "Bullfrog" Ellis, Vickie Stevens and the Sonny Hess Band, and the Harlis Sweetwater Band. The festival wraps up with an All-Star Jam. Call 406-293-5900 or visit www.riverfrontbluesfestival.com.

Flathead Lake Blues Festival: Aug. 15-16 on Salish Point in Polson. Fourth annual festival opens Friday with John Long, Ben Rice and the iL-Lamatics, The Bill Magee Band, and the six-piece David Raitt and the Baja Boogie Band. Saturday kicks off at with Missoula's Mudslide Charley, followed by Polly O'Keary and the Rhythm Method, The Fat Tones, Lisa Mann and her Really Good Band, The Randy Oxford Band, and the All Star Jam. Call 406-885-2377 or visit www.flatheadlakebluesfestival.com for details.

Crown of the Continent Guitar Festival: Aug. 24-31 at Flathead Lake Lodge in Bigfork. Six master guitarists offer classes in several genres and evening performances in the Crown Festival Tent. This year's concerts feature progressive rock torchbearer Dweezil Zappa on Sunday; Mike Stern, alumnus of the band Earth Wind and Fire, with

blues artist Ana Popovic on Monday; singer-songwriters Emily Elbert and Shelby Lynne, Tuesday; jazz legend Lee Ritenour and friends, Wednesday; classical artist David Leisner and rock singer/songwriter John Oates, Thursday; and the All Star Extravaganza, Saturday. Call 855-855-5900 or visit www.cocguitarfoundation.org for details.

Great Falls & Central Montana

Red Ants Pants Music Festival: July 24-27 at the Jackson Ranch in White Sulphur Springs. Charley Pride, Brandi Carlile, Josh Ritter, Jason Isbell, Ian Tyson and James McMurry are among the headliners at the fourth annual outdoor festival. The roster also includes Corb Lund, The Black Lillies, Red Molly, Baskery, and more. The Bus Driver Tour performs for Thursday's free street dance. Food, beverage, art and crafts vendors, contests, and ag demonstrations are also part of the popular event, and camping is available on site. A portion of the profits go to the Red Ants Pants Foundation, which supports women's leadership, working farms and ranches, and rural communities. Call 406-209-8135 or visit www.redantspantsmusicfestival.com.

Montana State Old Time Fiddlers' Contest: July 25-26 at the City Park in Choteau. The 46th annual string-slinger showdown kicks off with a no-holds-barred dance-fiddling contest and street dance Friday evening. Open- and state-certified contests run all day Saturday with finals at 7 p.m. Call 406-323-1198 or visit montanafiddlers.org.

Montana State Fair Concerts: July 26-28 and 30 and Aug. 1-2 at Montana ExpoPark. This year's line-up includes Tesla, July 26; the Summerland Tour featuring Everclear, Soul Asylum and Eve 6, July 27; David Nail with Maggie Rose, July 28; Jake Owen with Old Dominion, July 30; and Restless Heart, Aug. 1-2. Call 406-727-8900 or visit www.montanastatefair.com.

Downpour Festival: Aug. 16 at Montana ExpoPark. Audio Adrenaline and Shonlock are among the performers at this annual Christian music fest. Call 406-727-8900 or visit downpourfestival.com.

Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Western Music Rendezvous: Aug. 14-17 at the Yogo Inn and the Fergus Center for the Performing Arts in Lewistown. The Sons of the San Joaquin headline the 29th annual event, performing Saturday night. The gathering – the second oldest in the country – pays homage to the history, heritage and values of the American cowboy with cowboy poetry and western music sessions on Friday and Saturday, a Western Art and Gear Show, a chuckwagon dinner and Open Mic, a Jam 'n Dance, and Cowboy Church. Call 406-535-8721 or visit www.montanacowboypoeetrygathering.com.

Boulder Music and Arts Festival: Sept. 6-7 at Veterans Park in Boulder. Seventh annual event features a flock of local and regional musicians, Montana artists and authors, children's activities, and food and beverage vendors. Call 406-465-2106 or visit www.bouldermtchamber.com.

Missoula & Western Montana

Celtic Festival Missoula: July 25-26 at Caras Park. The Gothard Sisters and Eric Rigler and Dirk Freymuth perform Friday. An array of bands and dancers take the stage Saturday, culminating in performances by Enter the Haggis and the Young Dubliners. Call 406-239-0105 for details.

Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival: July 25-27 at The Thomas Ranch in Hamilton. Red Desert Ramblers, the Trinity River Band, JD Webb and the Downstate Ramblers, and New South Fork join Montana bands Pinegrass, Blue To The Bone, Spring Thaw, the Gravely Mountain Boys, Black Mountain, the Darby Sireens, and festival hosts Mike and Tari Conroy. Several pioneers in bluegrass and a special performance by Kids in Bluegrass make it a multi-generational event. Call 406-821-3777 or visit hardtimesbluegrass.com.

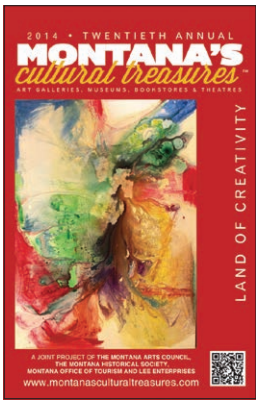
Montana Baroque Music Festival: July 29-31 at Quinn's Hot Springs in Paradise. "Concerto!" is the theme of the 11th annual festival, which brings acclaimed musicians together from far-flung places like London, Montreal and San Francisco, and closer to home for a different concert nightly. Call 406-826-3600 or visit montanabaroquefestival.org.

Big Sky Rhythm and Blues Festival: Aug. 1-3 along the Clark Fork River in Noxon. Nine bands

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Muir String Quartet and friends perform at Georgetown Lake, Big Sky and Bozeman.